

far from complete, I am positive that every organization that Representative Healey worked with will miss his leadership and dedication in the coming years. Mr. Speaker, while Edward Healey's passing is a tremendous loss for the Palm Beach County community, I can say without hesitation that his memory will live on through the work of the many organizations to which he dedicated his life. Though we will all miss his presence, I would like to thank and praise Edward for his hard work and leadership in improving the world at large.

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDRA LENNOX VAIL

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alexander "Al" Lennox Vail, a longtime friend, who passed away on January 4, 2000. He was 78. Vail was a California rancher, whose family had owned and managed Santa Rosa Island and its 54,000-acre cattle operation there for nearly a century.

Vail was born November 24, 1921 in Los Angeles, California, thirty minutes after his twin brother Russ. The two brothers grew up playing on the island that their grandfather had purchased in 1902, with partner J.V. Vickers. At just 21 years old, Vail began working full-time on Santa Rosa Island as a cowboy. In 1962, he became the general manager of the ranching operation.

Vail and his twin brother continued to manage the ranching operation, off the coast of Santa Barbara, until 1998. At that time, the last cattle were removed under an agreement to protect the island's native plants. Since 1998, the Vails and the Vickers (the Vickers are silent partners) continued to run a commercial elk and deer hunting operation on the island, which Vail managed until his sudden death.

Al will forever be remembered throughout the livestock community for his ethics and stewardship of the bounteous resources of an island that was in his family for almost 100 years.

Vail is survived by his wife, Catherine "Kay" Sutherland Vail of Santa Barbara; his daughters, Nita Vail of Sacramento and Mary Vail of Moorpark; twin brother Russell Vail and sister Margaret Vail Woolley, and their families of Pasadena.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Alexander "Al" Lennox Vail for his dedication to the well-being of the animals and the land. Vail will be remembered by his family members and those who knew him for his integrity, honesty, and hard work. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending my condolences to the Vail family.

RECOGNIZING THE NCAA DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPION METRO STATE ROADRUNNERS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the NCAA Division II National Basketball Champion Metro State Roadrunners from Denver, Colorado. The Roadrunners capped off a remarkable season with a stunning victory over Kentucky Wesleyan, last year's NCAA Division II champions, by a score of 97-79 on March 25, 2000. Metro State finished the season with a 33-4 record and bring home to Denver the State of Colorado's first NCAA national basketball championship trophy ever.

Metro State placed four players on the NCAA Elite Eight All-Tournament Team, including Most Valuable Player DeMarcos Anzures, John Bynum, Lee Barlow and Kane Oakley. It marked the first time four players from one team made the all-tournament team. In addition, Anzures, a senior who previously played for Denver's Skyview High School, was named a first team All-American and Coach Mike Dunlap was named National Coach-of-the-Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

The Roadrunners finished a tremendous three-year run that includes a 86-15 record, three Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference championships and two North Central Regional titles. Although Metro State began this year with two straight losses, the Roadrunners rebounded by winning 33 of their next 35 games and doing so in a rather dominating fashion. In fact, Metro State led the nation in scoring margin by outscoring opponents by an average of 19.1 points a game, including their 18-point victory in the NCAA title game.

Members of the 1999-2000 Metro State Roadrunners include: Anzures, Bynum, Barlow, Dunlap, Michael Alcock, Rashawn Fulcher, Shane Ah Matt, Todd Gower, Jason Johnson, Patrick Mutombo, Clayton Smith, Chris Ford and Jody Hollins.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting these fine young men and Coach Dunlap for their outstanding achievement and stellar performance throughout this entire season. Congratulations to everybody associated with Metro State for bringing home this impressive championship—a victory of which all of the people of Denver and the State of Colorado can be very proud.

A LIFE REMEMBERED, A COMMUNITY CHANGED

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2000

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my deepest sympathies to the family of Walter A. Olson of Jefferson, Ohio.

On Saturday, March 25 at about 6:30 a.m., Walter A. Olson was gunned down just 20 feet

from his own front door in a random act of violence that has shocked this small, tight-knit community to its core.

Mr. Olson, a husband, father of six, and grandfather of three, was innocently going about his morning routine on Saturday—a walk to a nearby cemetery where his mother and brother were buried. It was during this peaceful walk that Walter Olson crossed paths with a troubled, 22-year-old neighbor toting a 12-gauge, pump-action shotgun. The black trenchcoat the young man wore was bursting with ammunition and concealed a second gun. The gunman, apparently hellbent on killing anyone in his path, spotted Walter Olson and shot him dead. He then continued walking down Center Street, reloading his shotgun as if nothing had happened.

This tragic, senseless act could have led to much greater carnage had it not been for the Jefferson Police and Ashtabula County Sheriff's Department, which were quick to respond to neighbors' 9-1-1 calls. A gun battle ensued, and the gunman apparently refused to lay down his arms even after he'd been felled by officers' shots. A police dog, Cero—credited with saving the lives of other officers—died in the line of duty after being shot by the gunman. Police struggle to find a motive for this unprovoked rage.

Mr. Speaker, all too often we hear stories of disturbed, armed people walking into schools, daycare centers, restaurants and other public settings and opening fire indiscriminately on innocent people who have the misfortune of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. We watch the wrenching reports on the evening news with horror, and our hearts and prayers go out to the families. We hug our own children a little harder, and reassure ourselves that horrors like this will never befall our own community. All that changed on Saturday in the small town of Jefferson, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Jefferson, Ohio, is reeling in grief from the death of Walter Olson and the death of innocence of their community. The family and friends of Walter Olson have always known of his kindness, and strangers who never met him have been moved by the exemplary, humble life this religious, family man led.

Walter Olson was an Ashtabula County native, a former auxiliary police officer in Jefferson, and a member of the Jefferson Exchange Club and the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce. He'd worked for many years as a petroleum manager for Country Mark, Inc., and was working as a U.S. Census recruiter and field surveyor for Research Triangle Institute in Winston-Salem, NC, at the time of his death. He was a member of St. Joseph Calasactius Church in Jefferson, where a memorial service was held this morning. He leaves behind his wife, Mary, the manager of the local Hardee's; his children Cindy, Isaac, Randy, Angel, Robin, and Timothy; and his grandchildren Alyssa, Lillian and Warren. Walter Olson was just 51 years old.

Remarkably, Mary Olson holds no animosity toward the neighbor who shot and killed her husband, saying she "hates that there's a child out there who needed help; that he was so sad that he felt he had to do something like this." Her words speak volumes about the power of forgiveness and the goodness of the human heart.